



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, October 5, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-4850)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Wendy Garen,
Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner John Kim,
Commissioner Janet Teague, Vice Chair Jacquelyn McCroskey,
Vice Chair Wendy B. Smith and Chair Sunny Kang

Absent: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi,
Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Adrienne
Konigar-Macklin and Commissioner Liz Seipel

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (15-4571)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kang at 10:00 a.m., with less than a quorum of members present. Commissioners Curry, Franzen, Kim, and Cooper arrived after roll call and established a quorum.

2. Introductions of the October 5, 2015 meeting attendees. (15-4572)

Self-introductions were made.

3. Approval of the October 5, 2015 meeting agenda. (15-4573)

This item was tabled to allow a quorum of members to be present. Later in the meeting, on motion of Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Franzen (Commissioners Berger, Biondi, Brenes, Konigar-Macklin being absent), this item was approved.

4. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 17, 2015. (15-4574)

This item was tabled to allow a quorum of members to be present. Later in the meeting, on motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Teague (Commissioners Berger, Biondi, Brenes, Konigar-Macklin being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

5. Vice Chair's report for October 5, 2015. (15-4575)

Chair Kang reported the following:

- **Expressed appreciation to Commissioners Kamlager and Biondi for their service as Vice Chairs, Commissioner Biondi is currently on Jury Duty and was not in attendance; and**
- **Will meet with Vice Chairs this afternoon to discuss the organization and work of the Committee.**

6. Executive Director update on Commission activities. (15-4576)

Executive Director Tamara Hunter, M.S.W., reported the following:

- **Commissioners were sent information regarding upcoming conferences and advised to inform Ms. Hunter if interested in participating;**
- **Encouraged Commissioners to review the DCFS Strategic Planning Objectives Team List and advise which Teams Commissioners are interested in participating in, this is a great opportunity for the Commission to be hands on and impact change for children and families in Los Angeles County.**

7. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for October 5, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-4577)

- **This weekend there was an increase in youth that came to the Welcome Centers because of the potential for rain; DCFS is working with different entities including Astrid Heger to see if they can find a better place which can be licensed. DCFS must have licensing criteria met for the 72-hour transitional setting. DCFS met with Board Deputies, they have a draft letter that would give authority to the Department to**

negotiate with providers who are in that business; there will be more activity on this within the next week or two.

- The State Attorney is urging DCFS to move as quickly as possible to ensure DCFS is in a licensed facility; part of AB403 is to move to reduce the number of children in congregate care. Although there has been progress over the last few years, DCFS still has approximately 1,000 children in some sort of congregate care which is a much smaller percentage than any other jurisdiction; DCFS has 52% of children in relative care. A consultant informed last week that there are a number of jurisdictions that have approximately 15-25% of their children in relative care; a couple of other states are setting a goal of 35%. Los Angeles County has done a good job of putting children with relatives and that is something that gets overlooked.
- There was a supplemental budget hearing last week in which the County solidified the budget for the year. DCFS is in good shape with money coming from three primary resources; federal, state and local. DCFS is in the process of continuing to hire additional social workers, caseloads are still high in terms of national numbers and the county is also in the process of negotiations with the local unions; most have settled. Social workers have agreed to the terms, nurses and supervisors were still negotiating the last couple of days.
- During the social worker strike two years ago, DCFS had people who were not in the union, but were actually handling a caseload, drive past each other because DCFS did not have good addresses or telephone numbers. This year, they have software in place that will help, should that event reoccur.
- There are a two pieces of legislation that DCFS has worked on, both have passed;
 - o Legislation sponsored by Senator Huff, in the area of being able to electronically notice people who have an upcoming hearing, eliminating the wait for a hard copy and the ability to receive an email copy; and
 - o A bill that allows the setup of an automated web based portal for mandated reporters to inform of child abuse allegations. DCFS receives 200,000 phone calls every year; this would allow a mandated reporter to actually send information which may not be an emergency. DCFS is hopeful that it is going to help in terms of serving as a resource to the hotline.

III. PRESENTATIONS

8. Presentation on Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control & Accountability Plans (LCAPS), Year 1 and Year 2:

Public Counsel

Martha Matthews, Directing Attorney, Children's Rights Project (15-4681)

Chair Kang introduced Martha Matthews, Directing Attorney, Children's Rights Project and Public Counsel. Ms. Matthews provided a PowerPoint presentation on Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control & Accountability Plans (LCAPS) and added the following:

- **Foster youth are three to four times more likely to change schools than other low income students; and have a higher level of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) which impacts learning;**
- **The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was used as an attempt to provide change in the previous funding formula and address equity; and created a collaboration between the California State Departments of Education and Social Work to provide districts with foster youth data;**
- **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) must be used by all districts that include goals for all students including at risk students; however, its flexibility has created a challenge on how to accomplish goals; and**
- **Expressed the importance of identifying and communicating with the Education Rights Holder to improve education outcomes for foster youth;**
- **As a participant on a project with the Education Coordinating Counsel which involved the reading of all the LCAP's submitted by the school districts in the early stages, it was discovered that several large districts did not include foster youth or included foster youth but had no funding plans; however, a few of the smaller districts with limited resources found alternative methods such as hiring counselors just for foster youth;**
- **Encouraged the Commission to remain engaged with the progress of improving education for foster youth**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Martha Matthews responded as follows:

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- Data for foster youth who stay in their school of origin is not yet available;
 - All foster youth with open cases qualify for ILP; however, foster youth with closed cases may also qualify for ILP but it is dependent on the age of the youth;
 - The parent is the Education Rights Holder; however, the courts are able to make changes by appointing a relative or a person who can make decisions that will improve education outcomes for the youth; and
 - A review of the districts in the year 2 of the LCAPS report has not been done; data is not yet available.

Attachments: [PRESENTATION](#)

9. Presentation on addressing the educational needs of foster, probation and homeless youth. LCFF, LCAPS and Collaboration:

Los Angeles Unified School District

Dr. Debra Duardo, Executive Director Student Health and Human Services
Erika Torres, Director, Pupil Services

Department of Children and Family Services

Patricia Armani, M.S. Education Section

Probation Department

Jesus Corral, Senior Director of Education Services

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Andrea Kittelson, Sr. Program Specialist, Educational Data
Rachelle Touzard, Ph.D., Coordinator, Foster Youth Services
Don Bailey, Teacher, Boy's Republic (15-4682)

Dr. Debra Duardo, Executive Director, Student Health and Human Services of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) provided an overview of how the District is implementing Local Control Funding Formula process (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and how LAUSD created partnerships and programs that serve as models throughout the nation to support at-risk students. Dr. Durado reported the following:

- LAUSD is the second largest school district in the country with over 655,716 K-12 student enrollment populations. 80% of these students are receiving free or reduced lunch. These students are facing many

issues, such as poverty which has a significant impact on their ability to access quality education and overcome some of the barriers they face in getting education;

- LAUSD has a diverse population with over 92 languages spoken other than English. There are a total of 60,000 LAUSD employees and 1,309 schools/centers in Los Angeles. LAUSD has a large budget of over \$6.47 billion to invest in supporting all their students;
- The overall graduation rate is 70%; however, in the entire student population, there are still pockets of students that are not achieving at the level they should be;
- Attendance is taken very seriously and is closely looked upon. Chronic absentees is the highest indicator of if students will be successful in school and can be detected as early as third grade;
- Schools receive funding to serve student population and adjustments are made based on grade level, as well as specialty populations such as low income, English learner, and foster youth;
- LCFF simplifies funding for Districts. With that said, LAUSD changed how they are able to serve foster youth. Prior to receiving additional LCAP funding, LAUSD had three counselors serving the entire student population to address the issues and concerns around foster youth. After funding, LAUSD invested \$10 million in the first year to support foster youth, and \$12 million in the second year; and
- District goals are aligned with priorities of LCFF.

Erika Torres, Director, Pupil Services of LAUSD introduced Pupil Services programs that serve the most at risk population. Ms. Torres reported that LAUSD worked with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation, and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for over a year and shared a video that highlights the importance and impact their partnership has on the outcome of youth involved in these programs. Ms. Torres reported on the following programs:

Homeless Education Program -

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- In 2006, the Board of Education passed the “Access for All” Resolution, thus LAUSD began the Homeless Education Program. There are seven Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselors that are child welfare and attendance experts providing support to close to 14,000 families. With the support of LCAP, LAUSD prioritized support to homeless students and families and added 10 additional PSA Counselors to ensure that schools with the highest number of homeless youth have the additional support needed. In addition, LAUSD placed PSA Counselors at homeless shelters so that students and families can be directly served;
 - LAUSD’s goal is to facilitate enrollment by creating district policies and procedures and provide training to school based staff so that they can identify homeless students and enroll them immediately. Students and families are provided with backpacks, food, and toiletries as needed. LAUSD coordinates events such as graduation ceremonies for homeless youth, providing them with prom dresses and tuxedos and participates in sponsoring a graduate. LAUSD also contributes in sponsoring a family during the holidays; and
 - LAUSD has identified liaisons for the homeless at each of their school sites, as required by state law and district policy, and provided training to all liaisons so that they are aware of the rights that homeless students and families have.

Foster Youth Achievement Program -

- With the support of LCFF, LAUSD has the funding to increase PSA Counselors from 3 to 68 fulltime Counselors that are providing services to over 8,000 students in foster care and 11 lead counselors that are providing training and support to school based staff as it relates to educational rights of foster youth;
- The program identifies students eligible for AB216 graduation requirements and also monitors and tracks credits as the youth transfers in and out of LAUSD schools;
- The collaborative focus area includes data and accountability that identifies metrics to submit for LCAP. Community partners and district staff developed key training topics for caregivers and for professional development to ensure all of the staff is well aware of legislation supporting rights of foster youth;

- LAUSD worked closely with foster youth in developing the program;
- LAUSD works closely with DCFS to receive data match on a weekly basis that will match against district data files to identify foster youth and co-locating some of the foster youth in the DCFS offices;
- The 68 PSA Counselors are responsible for providing targeted case management support and services to all foster youth. Each counselor has 100-150 cases of foster youth that they serve and will follow. They conduct a comprehensive academic assessment to see where they are at and what resources and support they need to be successful and connect them to those resources. LAUSD is an advocate for rights of foster youth and collaborate with partners to ensure students are successful in school; and
- LAUSD collects data on services provided and monitors the progress of the foster youth. As of last year, LAUSD was able to serve over 9,000 foster youth.

Juvenile Hall/Camp Returnee Program –

- This program was expanded as a result of LCAP. It ensures all LAUSD students are identified at camp and monitors how students are doing in school through their attendance records, academic achievement, and behavior. The program re-enrolls LAUSD students and identifies school placement before the youth is released from camp;
- There is one PSA Counselor co-located at each juvenile hall and works with youth currently detained at the hall. There are six Camp Returnee Placement Counselors that work with LACOE and Probation while students are detained at the camps. The program reviews transcripts, individual learning plans, and works with the families and students to identify the student's educational plan post release. There are six Aftercare Counselors that work with students once they are released from camps. LAUSD want to continue to provide these youth with services and support; and
- LAUSD wants to create a safety net for these youth as they are at a higher risk of dropping out and at a higher risk of going back to juvenile hall/camps.

Jesus Corral, Senior Director of Education Services, Probation Department, added that what makes this program stand out from the rest is that the collaboration starts from the point the youth is detained. LAUSD begins to conduct the work of placement the second the youth receives their camp placement order. LAUSD accounts for approximately 50% of the youth that are in Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls and Camps; therefore it is important to have a strong partnership with LAUSD. Early work in placement helps improve the outcome for the youth that are in the program.

Rachelle Tourzard, Ph.D., Coordinator, Foster Youth Services, LACOE, noted that the partnership created a system that works for kids and was able to create viable education plans and provide strong support for kids that come to LACOE and return to their schools.

Ms. Torres provided a brief overview of the Juvenile Hall and Camp transition process and reported that as a result of the partnership, LAUSD was able to serve over 1,100 students that are detained at juvenile halls and camps. Additionally, LAUSD expects a decrease in chronic absenteeism, suspensions, dropout rate, and recidivism and expects an increase in attendance, performance on State tests and graduation rates.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Duardo confirmed that the definition of homelessness could be families living in shelters, hotels/motels, some sort of transitioning program, staying in their cars or mobile homes, abandoned building, substandard housing, or an unaccompanied youth who is not living with their parents or is a runaway. Also, some challenges that are still being faced are changing of thoughts and attitudes toward this population; having people look through a trauma informed lens and to empathize with the poverty and situations these kids are going through; and having teachers and school deans to stop wanting to push these kids out of schools and provide additional support.

Additionally, Dr. Duardo confirmed that the data of dropout rates is collected districtwide and reported that there has been a lot of research that shows that anytime kids are missing a large amount of school, they are more likely to dropout. Dr. Duardo also confirmed that prior to the 68 PSA Counselors, they were not able to meet with students one on one. Now, they are able to put a school team together to identify at risk students and meet with them to determine their needs.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Corral confirmed that there are a lot of changes in academic programs in juvenile halls and camps. He reported that LACOE is bringing a “Road to Success” model that focuses on youth academic progression along with their social and emotional growth. Probation has invested funds in leisure reading materials for dormitories and have partnered with Mission Community College where more than 60 students are enrolled to take courses this semester.

LAUSD will report back on the dropout rate of the 8,278 youth in foster care and rate of potential graduates.

Patricia Armani, M.S. Education Section, DCFS, noted that the Department has developed “Go-To” teams with local schools in the event the school faces challenges from DCFS kids, the school can reach someone within the Department to address the issue. In responding to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Armani stated that they are taking the best practice from the Gloria Molina Project and hoping to implement the model through the LCFF process with school district staff.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Duardo confirmed that they are serving as advocates for children and making sure that students transferring in and out of school are receiving their school credits. They are holding schools accountable for the outcome of this population. Furthermore, early identification and tracking of at-risk youth can help prevent homeless youth and youth in the child welfare system. Dr. Duardo also stated that LAUSD has a Homeless Education program where they bring in a team to assess homeless foster students as early as possible to determine what has or hasn’t worked and making sure they have a safe placement.

Ms. Touzard presented the following:

- LACOE provides technical services and programs to all 80 schools districts within Los Angeles County; and
- Their biggest project is the Foster Youth Information System which is a Countywide project to share and exchange all educational data across the county for all school districts. Districts can participate by submitting educational data to help support students enrollment in school and access to educational records.

Andrea Kittelson, Sr. Program Specialist, Educational Data, LACOE provided a brief overview of LCAP and stated that all students are targeted subgroup. New metrics are created with the idea to measure students on a daily basis to allow students to know if they are on track for graduation and to measure student achievement and contribution of the program and services.

Ms. Touzard further reported that academics support start at the hall where students are assessed. Once students are released from camps, LACOE will follow up 30, 60, and 90 days post release to intervene and ensure the students' needs are met.

Don Bailey, Teacher, Boy's Republic, LACOE presented the following:

- **Boy's Republic of Monrovia is a model site, opened in 1907;**
- **Boy's Republic awarded \$120,000 in scholarships to many of whom are foster youth;**
- **They operate at 50-60% foster youth, with main feeders being group homes in Monrovia and Silver Lake; and**
- **Community Schools have real opportunity to intervene with students.**

Mr. Bailey shared a success story in which LACOE and Boy's Republic collaborated to get a homeless youth placed. The youth went on to graduate and obtain scholarships from Boy's Republic and is now able to sustain and support himself.

Attachments: [PRESENTATION BY LAUSD](#)
 [PRESENTATION BY LACOE](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.** Announcements for the meeting of October 5, 2015. (15-4578)

There were no announcements presented.

- 11.** Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-4579)

No items were discussed.

- 12.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-4580)

No members of the public addressed the Commission on this item.

13. Adjournment for the meeting of October 5, 2015. (15-4581)

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.